BOSTON STRANGLER

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

From 20th Century Studios and award-winning writer-director Matt Ruskin ("Crown Heights") comes "Boston Strangler," a true-crime thriller about the trailblazing reporters who broke the story of the notorious Boston Strangler murders of the 1960s. The film stars two-time Oscar® nominee Keira Knightley ("The Imitation Game," "Pride & Prejudice"), Emmy® nominee Carrie Coon ("Fargo," "The Gilded Age"), Alessandro Nivola ("Amsterdam"), David Dastmalchian ("Dune"), Morgan Spector ("Homeland"), Emmy Award nominee Bill Camp ("The Night Of," "The Queen's Gambit"), and Academy Award® winner Chris Cooper ("Adaptation"). Written and directed by Matt Ruskin, the film is produced by Ridley Scott ("The Martian"), Kevin J. Walsh ("House of Gucci"), Michael Pruss ("American Woman"), Josey McNamara ("Promising Young Woman"), and Tom Ackerley ("I, Tonya"), with Michael Fottrell ("The Fate of the Furious") and Sam Roston serving as executive producers.

The Story

After the bodies of three elderly women are discovered, Loretta McLaughlin (Keira Knightley), a reporter for the Record-American newspaper, is the first journalist to publish a story connecting the crimes. As the mysterious killer claims more and more victims, Loretta attempts to continue her investigation alongside colleague and confidant Jean Cole (Carrie Coon), yet the duo finds themselves stymied by the rampant sexism of the era. Nevertheless, McLaughlin and Cole bravely pursue the story at great personal risk, putting their own lives on the line in their quest to uncover the truth.

Inside the Story

With his celebrated 2017 drama "Crown Heights," writer, director, and producer Matt Ruskin examined the true story of a man wrongfully convicted of murder. Now, with his latest, "Boston Strangler," Ruskin brings to the screen another astonishing true story, chronicling the hunt for one of the 20th century's most notorious serial murderers and the fearless reporters who helped bring the case to light.

Between 1962 and 1964, more than a dozen single women, ranging in age from 19 to 85, were killed in the Boston area, all of them strangled, their bodies posed provocatively by a mysterious attacker who came to be known as the "Boston Strangler." Although convicted sex offender

Alberto DeSalvo confessed to the crimes, there was no physical evidence tying him to the victims at that time; he instead received a life sentence for a separate series of rapes and sexual assaults and was stabbed to death in prison years after his conviction. Speculation remains whether he was the sole perpetrator of the Strangler murders—decades later, the case is the subject of widespread fascination for many armchair sleuths and true-crime aficionados.

Compelled to revisit this dark chapter of recent American history through a singular lens, filmmaker Ruskin was interested in telling the story from the vantage point of the two investigative journalists who bravely reported on the crimes, doggedly chasing every lead and even placing themselves in grave jeopardy in an effort to keep the city informed.

"The film is not just about Loretta's reporting, but about her relationship with her family and with Jean Cole as she worked tirelessly to chase down the biggest story of her career," says Ruskin. "They were working to keep women informed at a time when the police department was coming up short and juggling the rest of their lives while doing so. It was important to show not only their commitment to their work but also the personal challenges and obstacles they encountered at a time when there were not a ton of women in the newsroom."

It was an approach that immediately resonated with the team at Scott Free Productions: Ridley Scott, Kevin J. Walsh, Michael Pruss, and Sam Roston. "When people think of the Boston Strangler, they have different misconceptions as to what actually happened," notes Roston. "This felt like a fresh approach in terms of telling the story through Loretta and Jean's eyes, these reporters who had to challenge the norms of the era as they took it upon themselves to investigate these murders."

The Scott Free producers teamed up on the project with Tom Ackerley and Josey McNamara of Lucky Chap, and "Boston Strangler" began moving forward with a nuanced, insightful script from Ruskin that was part thrilling procedural, part character-driven drama.

Of course, for the drama to work, the filmmakers knew they needed to find two outstanding performers to portray trailblazing reporters Loretta McLaughlin and Jean Cole. Not only that, they would need to assemble a first-rate ensemble willing to immerse themselves in the story's 1960s period setting and honor the weighty contributions of their historical counterparts. Undertaking the casting process, the filmmakers found an ideal group of actors who could bring grit and gravitas to every role.

The Characters

When "Boston Strangler" opens, Loretta McLaughlin is a lifestyle reporter for Boston's Record-American newspaper who longs to tackle bigger assignments and be taken seriously as a journalist but finds her professional ambitions thwarted by a sexist newsroom culture. "She wants to be doing really important, big stories and isn't allowed when we first meet her," explains Keira Knightley, who signed on to play the crusading reporter. "She feels the frustration of not doing what you want to do."

Yet Loretta is not someone who is easily dissuaded from pursuing her goals: When she notices headlines about three separate women all found strangled, she convinces higher-ups to allow her to profile the victims in the hopes of learning if the crimes might be connected. From there, Loretta relies on her keen intelligence, drive, and unfailing editorial instincts as she sets out to uncover the truth about the murders that follow—and which serve to terrify the women of Boston who fear for their safety.

“This is a horrific story of the brutality of the male psyche and how disturbed and awful it can be through the eyes of two women,” says Knightley, known for her revelatory turns in such films as “The Imitation Game,” “Atonement” and “Pride & Prejudice.” “It’s a fast-paced story, and it’s a very tricky story to tell because there are many different twists and turns in it.”

Even as “Boston Strangler” follows Loretta’s fact-finding mission, writer/director Matt Ruskin’s screenplay also shows the ways in which her professional ambitions often conflict with her personal responsibilities: as a mother of three in the early 1960s, she frequently finds herself at odds with social conventions that expect her to place her husband and children’s well-being above her own. “Matt’s screenplay manages to convey the complexity of the characters while telling a story at such speed,” says Knightley.

Producer Sam Roston says Knightley was the ideal choice to play the film’s lead role. “It’s such a joy to see her convey all the emotions and smaller beats,” he says. “She’s stellar in every way.”

Adds Ruskin, “Loretta was this talented and driven reporter who was also a devoted mother. I think Keira could identify with the challenges Loretta faced. Keira is this extraordinary talent who knows firsthand how difficult it can be to balance work and family. No one could have done a better job bringing Loretta to life. I really can’t imagine anybody else in this role.”

Loretta finds an important ally in Jean Cole, who arrives in the newsroom following a merger between the Record-American and Boston’s Sunday Advertiser. Jean has a history of investigative stories under her belt, and though she’s formidable in her own right, Jean’s work style differs noticeably from Loretta’s. “Jean knows how to play by the rules and get what she needs,” Carrie Coon says. “She believes that you put your head down. You do your work. You’re also still a woman. You don’t need to curse, and you don’t join in the card games. She finds Loretta’s tactics of elbowing her way into these rooms off-putting and counterproductive, and she’s quick to tell Loretta as much.”

Still, the two women develop mutual respect, working alongside one another in a male-dominated field. “There’s also, of course, the tacit understanding of what it was to be one of those women in Boston,” notes Coon, famed for her work on stage and in such films and television series as “Gone Girl” and “The Gilded Age.” “They were deeply, deeply afraid for their safety. They were getting death threats at home. Jean had already experienced that just from covering a mayor’s race early in her career—she was getting death threats because she was a woman in a man’s sphere.”

On set, Knightley and Coon similarly built a solid rapport in their scenes together. “It’s been so nice working with her because she talks as fast as I do,” Knightley jokes. “Normally, actors don’t like other actors speaking very fast, so I get into a lot of trouble for giving my lines as fast as I do. Suddenly, I met Carrie, and she did the same thing! It was like heaven.”

Offers Coon of Knightley, “Every account I’d heard of her was that she was this incredibly hardworking, down-to-earth, relaxed, funny, interesting, smart person. It’s all true. We’re in similar places in our lives as working moms, and we’re playing working moms in a movie, so it’s a wonderful way to get to know someone in that regard.”

Playing Jack MacLaine, the editor who reluctantly sanctions Loretta’s early investigative work, is Chris Cooper. A career newspaperman, MacLaine enjoys a stiff drink and a good game of poker, and although he comes across as a grizzled, hard-boiled character, he develops a begrudging respect for Loretta’s indomitable spirit and unflagging work ethic, becoming a kind of mentor to her. “He’s not easy on her, but as we progress through the film, she proves herself,” says Cooper. “And within proving herself, there are still ups and downs. She’s new to this part of the business, and there are things that she needs to learn.”

The acclaimed actor found that the “Boston Strangler” script reminded him of the types of films that initially attracted him to acting. “Throughout my career, I’ve looked for stories about great behavior between people, not so much the green-screen explosions and car chases and all that business,” Cooper says. “That’s not the kind of film I grew up on. This was an emotional piece.”

For actor Alessandro Nivola—a Boston native who plays the film’s homicide detective Jim Conley—Ruskin’s screenplay brought back memories from his youth. “There’s lore around it, especially if you grew up in this part of the world,” says Nivola. “I knew people who claimed that they’d had people knock on their door in the early ’60s and ask to fix things in their apartment and that they’d sent them away. They were sure that, had they let him in, they might not have been long for this world.”

Determined to find and arrest the man terrorizing the city and to see justice done, Conley becomes obsessed with the case and is even willing to turn to cutting-edge tactics to achieve his aims. “He’s increasingly disenchanted with the anachronistic, old-fashioned policing methods that were still in place at the time that the movie’s set when forensic psychology was something that was not taken that seriously,” Nivola says. “Talking to shrinks about trying to profile a serial killer just really wasn’t common practice.”

Their shared commitment to solving the case and breaking the story creates a unique bond between Loretta and the detective. “There’s mutual respect, and there’s a mutual realization that they both want to get to the truth,” Knightley says of Loretta and Conley. “They’re both dealing with outside corporate forces that don’t necessarily make sense.”

Rounding out “Boston Strangler’s” cast is David Dastmalchian as Albert DeSalvo, a man well known to law enforcement for his long history of predation who becomes a prime suspect.

Morgan Spector plays James McLaughlin, Loretta's loving and supportive husband, and father to their three children, Maggie, Tommy, and Patrick. Bill Camp is Commissioner McNamara, the local police chief who is decidedly old-fashioned, openly sexist, and deeply resentful of Loretta's efforts to pin down the killer's identity.

About the Production

"Boston Strangler" was filmed in and around Boston between December 2021 and February 2022, with Emmy Award®-nominated director of photography Ben Kutchins ("Ozark"), Emmy-nominated production designer John P. Goldsmith (2020's "Perry Mason"), film editor Anne McCabe, ACE ("Dear Evan Hansen"), composer Paul Leonard-Morgan (2017's "Dynasty") and costume designer Arjun Bhasin ("A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood") collaborating closely with writer/director Matt Ruskin to develop a singular look for the drama.

"In terms of the look and feel for the film, we wanted to create something that felt authentic, that really transported people back to this time," says Ruskin. "Boston is a very different city these days. We were lucky enough to be able to shoot in some of the old neighborhoods, but a lot of that is gone—so we had to recreate quite a bit of it."

Goldsmith, in particular, says he felt a powerful connection to the era in which the film took place, having been born in Boston in the early 1960s. Before production began, Goldsmith and other key members of the art department scoured the city and its surroundings to develop visual storytelling cues that would authentically represent the region on the screen. "There's a richness here, which isn't just historical," Goldsmith says. "I sense this intellectual activity that takes place here because of the universities, because of the cultural institutions, the amazing museums, and libraries."

For the film's newsroom sets, Goldsmith and the team studied archival photographs of the Record-American from the period with an eye toward replicating the offices to the greatest degree possible. "We stayed pretty close, actually," he says. "There are things that we tweaked, but overall, we started there."

Similarly, Bhasin rooted his costume designs in the real world, taking inspiration from archival photography rather than 1960s fashion magazines. "We went to pictures of real people from the time, a lot of street photography and journalism," Bhasin says. "Often, when we see a period film, it becomes so much about hats and clothing and frocks that you forget that people actually lived in these clothes. We wanted it to feel very practical and real."

For Loretta's looks, Bhasin drew upon his previous experience working with Knightley on 2013's "Begin Again" to shape character-first pieces. "I really understand her, and I know how she approaches things," Bhasin says. "She has absolutely no vanity about how she wants to look. It's about what the character would wear. Loretta is volatile, so we used color to bring out the volatility of her character."

Despite the deeply fraught nature of many of the scenes, the actors found Ruskin to be a quiet, easy presence on set, and they say they appreciated his unflappable, focused approach. “He’s sort of an actor whisperer,” Knightley says. “He’s incredibly calm. He comes over and just whispers in your ear and then runs off.”

Adds Coon, “Matt feels like a director who used to be an actor. He knows how to talk to actors. He doesn’t overload the actor with notes. He comes in with a really clear and simple direction and layers those simple directions on top of one another to get what he needs.”

Echoes producer Sam Roston, “Obviously, with Ridley Scott being the head of our company, we always try to find filmmakers who have specific points of view. It’s a delight to have a filmmaker in Matt who not only writes but also directs and, in that way, knows exactly what he wants. He has a meticulous nature in terms of laying out what he wants and how he’s going to get it.”

What also sets Ruskin apart is his commitment to weaving larger real-world themes into his work, whether it’s the documentaries that launched his career or narrative features like “Boston Strangler.” The new film is the largest Ruskin has yet directed and his most ambitious—simultaneously a gripping true crime thriller, a nuanced character study, and a smart, sophisticated look at important issues of the era, many of which are startlingly relevant today.

“To me, the film, first and foremost, is about the way that newspapers both reflect and influence the society that we’re living in, and the power and impact they have, or don’t have now, as we see the decline of print journalism,” says Coon. “That’s something I lament.”

Ruskin agrees, saying, “I was drawn to telling a story about these two journalists rather than, say, the detectives who were in charge of the investigation because I think that good journalism is really important—now as much as ever. I always want my films to have some layer of substance to them, some value beyond just entertainment.”

“For me, the film has always been about identity and what it meant to be an ambitious journalist at the heart of the biggest story in the city at that time,” continues Ruskin. “It was always about looking at the personal obstacles and triumph of these reporters, as they try to get to the heart of this really layered and horrifying serial killer story.”

“Boston Strangler” will premiere March 17, 2023, exclusively on Hulu in the U.S., Star+ in Latin America, and Disney+ under the Star banner in all other territories.

About the Cast

KEIRA KNIGHTLEY (Loretta McLaughlin) is internationally renowned for her unbridled commitment to her art and for challenging herself with each new role.

Recently, she was seen in Camille Griffin’s film, “Silent Night,” starring opposite Matthew Goode. The film, which follows a family coming together for the holidays, premiered at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival and was released in December 2021. Additionally, she voices the

young artist Charlotte Salomon in the animated drama film “Charlotte.” The film was inspired by the World War II autobiographical painting series “Life? Or Theatre?” by Charlotte Salomon. The film premiered at the 2021 Toronto International Film Festival and in 2022 at the London Jewish Film Festival.

Knightley can also be seen in Philippa Lowthorpe’s “Misbehaviour” alongside Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Jessie Buckley, and Keeley Hawes. The film tells the true story of how the Women’s Liberation Movement began by disrupting the 1970 Miss World beauty competition in London. It was released in the U.K. in March 2020 and in the U.S. in September 2020.

In 2014, she received critical acclaim for her work in Morten Tyldum’s “The Imitation Game,” co-starring opposite Benedict Cumberbatch. Her character, Joan Clarke, an English cryptographer, helps to crack the German Enigma code during World War II. For her performance, Knightley earned Academy Award®, BAFTA Award, Golden Globe Award® and Screen Actors Guild Award® nominations in the category of best supporting actress.

Her work also includes a trio of collaborations with Joe Wright for the films “Pride and Prejudice,” “Atonement,” and “Anna Karenina.” Her critically acclaimed portrayal in “Pride and Prejudice” garnered her Academy Award® and Golden Globe® nominations for best actress in a leading role. She was nominated for a BAFTA Award and Golden Globe Award for her performance in “Atonement.”

Knightley has also starred in the worldwide box-office blockbuster hit Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean,” starring opposite Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom as Elizabeth Swann. The franchise of films includes “Pirates of the Caribbean: The Black Pearl,” “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men’s Chest,” “Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End,” as well as the latest installment, “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.”

Additional film credits include George Lucas’ “Star Wars: Episode 1 - The Phantom Menace,” Gurinder Chadha’s “Bend It Like Beckham,” Gillies MacKinnon’s “Pure,” Richard Curtis’ “Love Actually,” Antoine Fuqua’s “King Arthur,” Francois Gerard’s “Silk,” Saul Dibb’s “The Duchess,” John Maybury’s “The Edge of Love,” Mark Romanek’s “Never Let Me Go,” Massy Tadjedin’s “Last Night,” David Cronenberg’s “A Dangerous Method,” John Carney’s “Begin Again,” Kenneth Branagh’s “Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit,” Lynn Shelton’s “Laggies,” Baltasar Kormakur’s “Everest,” David Frenkel’s “Collateral Beauty,” Disney’s “The Nutcracker and the Four Realms,” Wash Westmoreland’s “Colette,” the anthology of shorts “Berlin, I Love You,” Gavin Hood’s “Official Secrets,” and James Kent’s “The Aftermath.”

She made her debut in the BBC TV series “Screen One,” and went on to appear in several ITV dramas, including “Doctor Zhivago” and “Oliver.”

In addition to her work in both television and film, Knightley has appeared on transatlantic stages. She made her West-End theatrical debut in Thea Sharrock’s “The Misanthrope,” for which she received a Laurence Olivier Award nomination for best actress in a supporting role. She went on

to appear in Ian Rickson's "The Children's Hour" and made her Broadway debut in Even Cabnet's "Therese Raquin."

CARRIE COON (Jean Cole) is one of Hollywood's most sought-after talents. With a wide variety of roles across film, television, and theatre, she has garnered acclaim throughout her career and continues to cultivate her impressive body of work.

Upcoming, she will be seen starring opposite Keira Knightley in "Boston Strangler," written and directed by Matt Ruskin. The film follows Loretta McLaughlin (Knightley) as the reporter who first connected the murders and broke the story of the Boston Strangler. She and Jean Cole (Coon) challenged the sexism of the early 1960s to report on the city's most notorious serial killer. Hulu will debut the film on March 17, 2023. Following, she stars in HBO's "The Gilded Age" alongside Christine Baranski, Cynthia Nixon, and Morgan Spector. The series, created by Julian Fellowes, centers on a period of immense economic change, of fortunes made and lost, and the rise of disparity between old money and new. Coon portrays Bertha Russell, who comes from the ordinary middle class and is determined to use her money to position to break into a society that resists change. Now in its second season, "The Gilded Age" will return to HBO in Spring 2023.

She will soon begin production on the sequel to "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," to be directed by co-writer and producer Gil Kenan. The film reunites Coon with co-star Paul Rudd, and the slated release date is 2023.

Her breakout role in film came in the highly-acclaimed film "Gone Girl," opposite Ben Affleck, Rosamund Pike, and Neil Patrick Harris. Based on the best-selling novel by Gillian Flynn, "Gone Girl" tells the story of Nick (Affleck), a man in a rocky marriage whose life implodes when his wife goes missing, and he becomes a suspect of murder. Coon portrays Margo 'Go' Dunne, Nick's twin sister and confidant.

Additional film credits include Jason Reitman's "Ghostbusters: Afterlife"; Sean Durkin's "The Nest," for which she received critical acclaim; Steve McQueen's "Widows," Jonathan and Jon Baker's "Kin," Anthony and Joe Russo's Marvel Universe blockbuster "Avengers: Infinity War," Jody Hill's "The Legacy of a Whitetail Deer Hunter," Steven Spielberg's "The Post," Christian Papierniack's "Izzy Gets the F*ck Across Town," Karen Moncrieff's "The Keeping Hours," and Katherine Dieckmann's "Strange Weather."

In television, she starred as Vera Walker in the second season of the USA Network's critically-lauded limited drama series "The Sinner." For her work, Coon was nominated for her third Critics' Choice Television Award, this time for best actress in a movie or limited series. In 2017, she made history by winning the first-ever double TCA Award for individual achievement in drama for her brilliant work in both HBO's "The Leftover's" and FX's anthology series "Fargo." The latter of which also earned her an Emmy® nomination in the category of outstanding lead actress in a limited series or movie as well as a Critics' Choice Television Award nomination for best actress in a movie or limited series. For her work in "The Leftovers, she was awarded the 2016 Critics' Choice Television Award for best actress in a drama series. Her

additional television credits include "Intelligence," "Ironside," "Law & Order: SVU" and "The Playboy Club."

Coon's increasing renown can be traced back to the Steppenwolf stage in Chicago, Illinois. In 2011, in her inaugural performance with the venerable Chicago-based acting ensemble, she starred as Honey in the theatre company's production of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" opposite Tracy Letts, Amy Morton, and Madison Dirks. The production opened on Broadway shortly thereafter to universal acclaim and would go on to win the 2013 Tony Award for best revival of a play. For her portrayal of Honey, she was recognized with both a Tony Award® nomination for best-featured actress in a play and a Theatre World Award to honor her outstanding Broadway debut. Since her debut, Coon went on to star in numerous additional productions for Steppenwolf, including "The March," "Three Sisters," and most recently, the world premiere of "Mary Page Marlowe." She was recently named an ensemble member in January 2019. Outside of her theatre work with Steppenwolf, she most recently portrayed the titular character in Amy Herzog's world premiere drama "Mary Jane" at the New York Theatre Workshop. Her performance garnered a 2018 Lucille Lortel Award, an Obie Award, and a Drama Desk Award nomination. The play revolved around a single mother caring for her chronically ill son and enjoyed a hugely successful extended off-Broadway run.

Prior to her performance in "Mary Jane," Coon made her off-Broadway debut in the 2015 world premiere of Melissa James Gibson's "Placebo" at Playwrights Horizons. Additional theatre credits include "Magnolia" (Goodman Theatre); "The Real Thing" (Writers Theatre); "The Girl in the Yellow Dress" (Next Theatre); "Our Town" and "Anna Christie" (Madison Repertory Theatre); "Reasons to be Pretty," "Blackbird" (Renaissance Theaterworks); and multiple seasons with American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Copley, Ohio, she received her B.A. from the University of Mount Union and her M.F.A. in acting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She currently resides in New York with her husband and creative collaborator, Tracy Letts.

ALESSANDRO NIVOLA (Detective Conley) has established himself as one of the most versatile actors of his generation, with an array of emotionally searing and complex roles defining his body of work.

He is currently in production on "The Big Cigar," Apple TV+'s limited series which chronicles Black Panther Party founder Huey P. Newton (André Holland) and his best friend, Bert Schneider (Nivola), a Hollywood producer who helped Newton escape to Cuba while being pursued by the FBI.

He most recently appeared in David O. Russell's "Amsterdam," alongside an all-star cast including Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, Robert DeNiro, Mike Myers, and John David Washington. He recently wrapped production on Sony Pictures' Marvel film "Kraven the Hunter," also starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson, Ariana DeBose, and Russell Crowe. Directed by J.C. Chandor, the film is set to release theatrically on January 13, 2023.

It was recently announced that Nivola would co-star in Todd Haynes's Peggy Lee biopic "Fever," opposite Michelle Williams for MGM. The feature written by Doug Wright will be produced by Marc Platt, Christine Vachon, Pamela Koffler, and Reese Witherspoon.

Last year, Nivola starred as the lead role of Dickie Moltisanti in the Warner Bros. film "The Many Saints of Newark." Written by David Chase and directed by Alan Taylor, the 1960s-set mob film is a prequel to the acclaimed "Sopranos" series.

In 2018, Nivola won the British Independent Film Award for Best Supporting Actor and was also nominated for a London Critics Circle Award for his role as Rabbi Dovid Kuperman in Sebastian Lelio's "Disobedience," opposite Rachel Weisz and Rachel McAdams. Of his performance, Stephanie Zacharek of Time said, "Nivola is one of those stealth actors who adds a brushstroke (or more) of grace to every film in which he appears."

Other notable credits include David O. Russell's "American Hustle," for which Nivola earned a Screen Actors Guild Award® and Critics Choice Award as part of the ensemble; Lisa Cholodenko's "Laurel Canyon," opposite Frances McDormand, for which he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award; Ava Duvernay's "Selma," which received a Critics Choice Award nomination for best ensemble cast; "One Percent More Humid," for which Nivola won best actor at the TriBeCa Film festival; and John Woo's "Face/Off," for which he received a Blockbuster Movie Award.

Additional credits include: "The Art of Self Defense," opposite Jesse Eisenberg; "The Red Sea Diving Resort," opposite Chris Evans; "A Most Violent Year," opposite Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac; "Coco Before Chanel," opposite Audrey Tautou; Nicholas Winding Refn's "The Neon Demon," Sally Potter's "Ginger & Rosa," Kenneth Branagh's "Love's Labour Lost," "Mansfield," "Junebug," opposite Amy Adams; and "Jurassic Park III."

On the small screen, Nivola most recently starred in the BBC/FX mini-series "Black Narcissus." Prior to that, he played Mark Madoff opposite Robert DeNiro in Barry Levinson's HBO film "The Wizard of Lies" and the drama series "Chimerica," opposite Cherry Jones.

On stage, Nivola earned both Tony Award® and Outer Critics Circle Award nominations for his performance as Frederick Treves in the 2015 Broadway revival of "The Elephant Man," opposite Bradley Cooper. He also earned a Drama Desk Award nomination in the Broadway revival of Turgenev's "A Month in the Country," opposite Helen Mirren, and an Outer Critics Circle nomination for his performance in "The Winslow Boy," also on Broadway.

Nivola and his wife Emily Mortimer, set up the film and television production company King Bee Productions in 2014, which currently has a first-look deal with eOne Studios and is developing a full slate of film and television projects. In 2018, he produced the feature film "To Dust," starring Geza Rohrig and Matthew Broderick, which won both the Audience Award and the Best First Feature Award at the 2018 TriBeCa Film Festival and was nominated for a 2020 Film Independent

Spirit Award. On television, he produced two seasons of HBO's critically acclaimed series "Doll & Em," starring Mortimer and Dolly Wells.

Nivola grew up in rural Vermont and graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in English. He lives in New York.

MORGAN SPECTOR (James McLaughlin) currently stars in the HBO series "The Gilded Age" from "Downton Abbey" creator Julian Fellowes starring alongside Carrie Coon, Christine Baranski, and Cynthia Nixon.

Spector received critical acclaim, including a Critics Choice nomination, for his work in David Simon's "The Plot Against America," opposite Winona Ryder, John Turturro, and Zoe Kazan. Additional TV credits include "Homeland" (Showtime) and "Boardwalk Empire" (HBO), as well as leads on "Pearson" (USA), "The Mist" (Spike), and "Allegiance" (NBC).

On the big screen, his credits include "Nanny," which was awarded the grand jury prize in the U.S. Dramatic Competition at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival; "A Vigilante," opposite Olivia Wilde; the relationship drama "Permission," opposite Dan Stevens and Rebecca Hall; and a turn as Sylvester Stallone in director Philippe Falardeau's biopic "Chuck," the true story of boxer Chuck Wepner, who inspired the "Rocky" film series. Spector is also featured in Audible's upcoming scripted podcast, "The Miranda Obsession."

In addition, he directed the short "Mother!!" for the short film collection "With/in: Volume 1," which had its premiere at the 2021 Tribeca Film Festival. He also produced the documentary "The Big Scary 'S' Word."

On stage, Spector made his Broadway debut in 2010 in Gregory Mosher's Tony Award®-winning revival of Arthur Miller's "View from the Bridge," starring opposite Liev Schreiber and Scarlett Johansson. He was later nominated for a Drama Desk for his performance in the New Group's production of Erika Sheffer's "Russian Transport," starring Janeane Garofalo. Other significant stage performances include "Harvey" and "Machinal" on Broadway, "Ironbound" (Rattlestick), and "Incognito" (MTC). Spector was last seen onstage off-Broadway in Clare Lizzimore's "Animal," starring opposite Rebecca Hall at the Atlantic Theatre.

A graduate of Reed College and the prestigious American Conservatory Theater, Spector lives in New York with his wife and daughter.

DAVID DASTMALCHIAN (Albert DeSalvo) is an award-winning actor, writer, producer, and filmmaker who has become one of the most in-demand talents in the entertainment industry today, from bringing complex characters to life on screen in film and television to penning raw, harrowing tales of flawed individuals from all walks of life.

Dastmalchian can next be seen starring in Amblin's horror thriller feature film "Last Voyage of the Demeter" opposite Corey Hawkins, Liam Cunningham, and Aisling Franciosi. Directed by

André Øvredal, the film is an adaptation of The Captain's Log, a chapter from the 1897 Bram Stoker novel, "Dracula," which documents a ship that washes up on the shores of England, tattered and broken, with one raving-mad survivor. "Last Voyage of the Demeter" is slated for release in 2023. Also in film, Dastmalchian will reunite with Christopher Nolan, the director who gave him his big break in "The Dark Knight" in "Oppenheimer," Nolan's upcoming historical film centering on J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the fathers of the A-bomb. Dastmalchian will star opposite Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Rami Malek, and Kenneth Branagh. Universal has set a release date of July 21, 2023, for the film.

In 2021 Dastmalchian made his mark in the D.C. Universe, starring as the iconic Polka-Dot Man opposite Margot Robbie, Joel Kinnaman, and John Cena in James Gunn's "The Suicide Squad" (Warner Bros. Pictures). He also starred as Piter De Vries in Legendary Studios/Warner Bros.' Academy Award®-nominated blockbuster adaptation of Frank Herbert's bestselling sci-fi novel "Dune." Directed by Denis Villeneuve, Dastmalchian appeared opposite Timothée Chalamet, Oscar Isaac, Rebecca Ferguson, Dave Bautista, Stellan Skarsgård, Javier Bardem, and Josh Brolin.

Originally from Kansas, Dastmalchian was discovered by Christopher Nolan nearly a decade ago, making his silver screen debut in the iconic, award-winning feature "The Dark Knight," which launched his career from the stage to film and television. Since then, Dastmalchian has been hand-picked for dynamic roles by critically acclaimed directors, including David Lynch, Denis Villeneuve, James Gunn, two-time Cannes winner Michel Franco, Sam Taylor Johnson, and Susanne Bier (to name a few).

Previous film credits include Sam Taylor-Johnson's directed film adaptation of "A Million Little Pieces," Academy Award®-nominated feature "Prisoners" (Warner Bros.), Disney/Marvel's "Ant-Man" and "Ant-Man and the Wasp," "Bird Box," opposite Sandra Bullock for Netflix, "The Domestics" for MGM, "Blade Runner 2049" for Warner Bros. opposite Ryan Gosling and Robin Wright, indie horror-thriller "The Belko Experiment," opposite Michael Rooker and John C. McGinley, and "Relaxer," written and directed by Joel Potrykus (debuted at SXSW 2018). In television, Dastmalchian most recently starred opposite Abigail Spencer, Mena Massoud, and Rodrigo Santoro in HULU's drama series "Reprisal," from Warren Littlefield and A+E Studios. He has also appeared in the reboot of "Twin Peaks" (Showtime), "MacGyver" (CBS), "Gotham" (FOX), and "The Flash" (The CW).

As a prolific and budding filmmaker, Dastmalchian most recently wrote and starred in "All Creatures Here Below," opposite Karen Gillian. The Los Angeles Times raved …a stark, dramatic turn for these stars, and Dastmalchian proves to be a remarkable screenwriter to watch. "All Creatures Here Below" was acquired for North American distribution by Samuel Goldwyn Films and hit theaters nationwide in May 2019.

Dastmalchian made his film screenwriting debut with "Animals" in 2014, which took the SXSW Film Festival by storm, winning the Special Jury Prize for Courage in Storytelling and bowing to rave reviews. Complex Magazine called the film one of the biggest breakthroughs of SXSW 2014, and IndieWire also raved, including it as one of the Biggest Breakouts at the festival.

Dastmalchian, who starred in, wrote, and produced the film, received critical acclaim from top national outlets, including Time Magazine, Slant Magazine, The Hollywood Reporter, and Variety. He won Best Actor at the New York Independent Film Festival for his work in the film. Additional accolades for Dastmalchian include Best Actor at Best of the Midwest Independent Film Awards and Best Film at Best of the Midwest Independent Film Awards (both for "Animals"), Audience Choice, Chicago Film Critics Association ("Animals"), and Programmers Choice, Virginia Film Festival ("Animals").

While working in film and television has kept Dastmalchian very busy, he recently collaborated with Dark Horse Comics to turn his childhood passion of creating a comic book series into a reality with the launch of "Count Crowley: Reluctant Midnight Monster Hunter." Written by Dastmalchian and illustrated by Lukas Ketner, the comic follows Jerri Bartman, a once-rising TV journalist who has returned to her small Midwest hometown TV station. Demoted to hosting the nightly Creature Feature, Jerri's professional humiliation is eclipsed by the discovery that her new job comes with a secret, supernatural duty. Her missing predecessor, Count Crowley, was one of the last 'Appointed' hunters of monsters. Monsters are real, and they're hell-bent on controlling the news and information consumed by humans. The sequel to "Count Crowley: Reluctant Midnight Monster Hunter," entitled "Count Crowley: Amateur Midnight Monster Hunter," debuted in March 2022.

On the charity front, Dastmalchian volunteers regularly with the Born to Act Players, a 20-year-old theatre troupe comprised of developmentally disabled adults who have a passion and talent in acting. He is very involved with The Big Slick, a charity event hosted by Paul Rudd, Jason Sudeikis, Eric Stonestreet, David Koechner, and Rob Riggle for the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. He is also a supporter of The Bob Baker Marionette Theater in Los Angeles.

Dastmalchian currently lives in the Los Angeles area with his wife, muralist Evelyn Leigh, and their two children.

About the Filmmakers

MATT RUSKIN (Writer/Director) wrote and directed "Boston Strangler" for Scott Free and 20th Century, starring Keira Knightley. "Crown Heights," written and directed by Ruskin, premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival, where it won the audience award in the U.S. dramatic competition.

RIDLEY SCOTT (Producer), one of the world's foremost directors and producers, is most known for his work on films such as "Thelma & Louise," "Alien," "Black Hawk Down" and "Blade Runner." His film epic "Gladiator" won the Academy Award®, Golden Globe®, and BAFTA Awards for best picture, as well as the Academy Award for best actor in a leading role for Russell Crowe. Throughout his illustrious career, Scott has also been lauded by the Emmy Awards®, Cannes Film Festival, and the PGA Awards. In 1968, Scott formed RSA as a commercial production house for some of the world's most recognized corporate brands.

In 1995, Scott formed Scott Free Productions to serve as a production company for his film and television projects such as “Blade Runner 2049,” “Murder on the Orient Express,” “Hannibal,” “American Gangster,” “Concussion,” the critically-acclaimed CBS drama “The Good Wife,” its spin-off “The Good Fight,” the highly anticipated upcoming HBO Max sci-fi series, “Raised by Wolves,” and the hit telefilms “Killing Lincoln,” “Killing Kennedy” and “Killing Jesus.” The most recent feature films produced by Scott Free include Jake Scott’s “American Woman,” Gabriela Cowperthwaite’s “The Friend,” and Wash Westmoreland’s “Earthquake Bird.”

As a director, Scott’s recent projects include “House of Gucci,” starring Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Jared Leto, and Al Pacino; “Alien: Covenant,” the sequel to “Prometheus,” starring Michael Fassbender and Katherine Waterston; and “All the Money in the World,” starring Christopher Plummer, Michelle Williams, and Mark Wahlberg. Upcoming films include “Napoleon,” starring Joaquin Phoenix and Vanessa Kirby.

Academy Award®-nominated producer **JOSEY MCNAMARA (Producer)** formed LuckyChap Entertainment alongside Margot Robbie and Tom Ackerley in 2014, after meeting on the set of “Suite Francaise,” where she worked as an assistant director. She later transitioned to producing, and launched LuckyChap Entertainment with the intent of telling female-driven stories and promoting new filmmakers.

This Summer, LuckyChap’s film “Barbie,” directed by Greta Gerwig, starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, will be released by Warner Bros. on July 21, 2023. Additionally, LuckyChap recently wrapped Emerald Fennell’s film “Saltburn,” and Megan Park’s film “My Old Ass,” which they produced under their new feature film first look deal with Indian Paintbrush. LuckyChap also recently wrapped production on “Borderline,” starring Samara Weaving and Eric Dane. LuckyChap recently announced they will be producing the “Untitled Body Swap Comedy,” starring Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston, directed by Max Barbakow for Amazon.

LuckyChap’s feature “Promising Young Woman,” starring Carey Mulligan, was released by Focus Features on in December 2020. The film, which debuted at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, marked Emerald Fennell’s directorial debut. “Promising Young Woman” received five Academy Award® nominations, including Best Picture, four Golden Globe® nominations, and six BAFTA nominations. In 2017, LuckyChap premiered their film “I, Tonya,” at the Toronto Film Festival, which was then acquired by Neon. The film went on to receive an Academy Award® for Allison Janney’s supporting actress role, along with two additional nominations, including Margot Robbie for lead actress.

On the television side, LuckyChap’s limited series “Mike,” starring Trevante Rhodes, was released in August 2022 on Hulu. “Mike” was produced alongside Clubhouse Pictures, The Gist of It, Entertainment 360, and 20th Television. The series received two NAACP nominations for Outstanding Actor in a Television Movie, Limited Series, or Dramatic Special (Trevante Rhodes) and Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Television Movie, Limited Series, or Dramatic Special (Russell Hornsby). In 2019, McNamara also served as a producer on Hulu’s series “Dollface,” starring Kat Dennings. The show’s second season was released in February 2022.

In 2020, McNamara received The Hollywood Reporter's Producer of the Year honor, along with Margot Robbie and Tom Ackerley, on behalf of LuckyChap Entertainment. Previously in 2018, McNamara was named one of Variety's ten producers to watch alongside Tom Ackerley.

After years of working as an assistant director, including on the film "The Two Faces of January," **TOM ACKERLEY (Producer)** transitioned to producing and launched LuckyChap Entertainment with the intent of telling female-driven stories and promoting new filmmakers.

This Summer, LuckyChap's film "Barbie," directed by Greta Gerwig, and starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, will be released by Warner Bros. on July 21, 2023. Additionally, LuckyChap recently wrapped Emerald Fennell's film "Saltburn," and Megan Park's film "My Old Ass," which they produced under their new feature film first-look deal with Indian Paintbrush. LuckyChap also recently wrapped production on "Borderline," starring Samara Weaving and Eric Dane. LuckyChap recently announced they would be producing the "Untitled Body Swap Comedy," starring Julia Roberts and Jennifer Aniston, directed by Max Barbakow for Amazon.

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In 2020, Ackerley received The Hollywood Reporter's Producer of the Year honor, along with Margot Robbie and Josey McNamara, on behalf of LuckyChap Entertainment. Previously in 2018, Ackerley was named one of Variety's 10 Producers to Watch alongside Josey McNamara.

SAM ROSTON (Executive Producer) started at Scott Free in late 2015 as director of development. He is currently senior vice president of development/production. Roston helped oversee production on "Naked Singularity," written and directed by Chase Palmer, starring John Boyega and Olivia Cooke for Screen Media. He is currently overseeing projects in development at Searchlight Pictures, MGM, Netflix, and Amazon Studios.

Prior to Scott Free, he was an executive at Scott Rudin Productions and Indian Paintbrush. He started his career at UTA as an assistant in the feature lit department.

BEN KUTCHINS (Director of Photography) is a lauded cinematographer whose first feature film, "Bomb the System," was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award. Before his film debut, Kutchins worked professionally as a still photographer at Lucasfilm's Industrial Light and Magic. A 35mm still camera in his hands since the age of 13, he has always felt most at home behind the lens.

Some of Kutchins' features include "Holy Rollers," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2010, the Fox Searchlight release "The Art of Getting By," "The Longest Week," a romantic dramedy starring Jason Bateman and Olivia Wilde, "Ten Thousand Saints," starring Ethan Hawke, and "Sleeping with Other People," starring Jason Sudeikis, both of which were official selections at Sundance.

He took on the high-end streaming/cable space and quickly became one of the top DPs in the landscape, beginning with the pilot and season one of the award-winning Amazon series, "Mozart in the Jungle." From there, he shot the Showtime series "Happyish," FX's cult favorite "Legion," and the critically acclaimed Netflix series "Ozark." His stunning work on the ground-breaking series has earned him two Emmy® nominations (seasons 1 and 3). He then went on to shoot both seasons of HBO's hit series, "The White Lotus."

His last few projects include some very distinct feature films. Period biography "Crown Heights," directed by Matt Ruskin, tells the true story of Colin Warner, who was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1982 and spent the next 21 years in prison. Hutchins also shot "Photograph," a romantic drama by acclaimed director Ritesh Batra set in Mumbai about a struggling street photographer who must walk the line between family and his newfound love. Both films premiered at Sundance to rave reviews, with the former nominated for the grand jury prize and winning the audience award. He then went on to shoot Disney's "Clouds" with director Justin Baldoni.

JOHN P. GOLDSMITH (Production Designer) is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary artist and designer. He studied architecture at Columbia and first became aware of motion picture design upon hearing Anton Furst's lecture after winning the Academy Award® for "Batman." He moved to Los Angeles after graduating and worked as a set designer on Oliver Stone's "Natural Born Killers," Sam Raimi's "Spider-Man," Ed Zwick's "The Last Samurai," and Steven Spielberg's "The Adventures of Tin-Tin," the last two being nominated for ADG Awards.

Goldsmith then worked as an art director on the Coen Brothers' "No Country for Old Men," Tom-Hooper's mini-series "John Adams," and Rod Lurie's "Straw Dogs." As a production designer, he worked on JC Chandor's "All is Lost" and "A Most Violent Year," John Curran's "Chappaquiddick," and the first season of "Perry Mason," which was nominated for both ADG and Emmy Awards®. Recently, he co-designed Jeremy Saulnier's "Rebel Ridge." In between projects, he maintains an art practice.

ARJUN BHASIN (Costume Designer) relishes creating and designing unique worlds, characters, and adventures through costume, as can be seen in his recent film and television work. Bhasin's credits include the upcoming "Boston Strangler" with Keira Knightley and "Nightbitch," his third collaboration with Marielle Heller. Previously, Bhasin designed the costumes for "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks; "Can You Ever Forgive Me?," starring Melissa McCarthy; Kogonada's award-winning science-fiction drama "After Yang," starring Colin Farrell; "Gully Boy," based on the lives of street rappers in Mumbai; Bart Freundlich's "After the Wedding," starring Julianne Moore and Michelle Williams; "Here and Now," starring Sarah Jessica Parker; "Five Flights Up," starring Diane Keaton and Morgan Freeman; and "Love is Strange," starring John Lithgow, Alfred Molina and Marisa Tomei.

Among the costume designer's additional film credits are collaborations with director Ang Lee on "Life of Pi"; Mira Nair on "Monsoon Wedding"; "The Namesake" and "The Reluctant Fundamentalist"; John Carney on "Begin Again"; Ira Sachs on "Love is Strange"; Richard Loncraine on "5 Flights Up"; and Gabby Dellal on "3 Generations." Bhasin's television credits include the critically-acclaimed "Ms. Marvel," "A Suitable Boy," and HBO's "Divorce."

Bhasin was born in India and studied film at New York University's Tisch School of Arts. Today, he shuttles effortlessly between Hollywood and Bollywood, crisscrossing sensibilities and ideologies. Bhasin resides in New York City.

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